

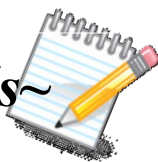


MMSA NEWS

December 2011

Volume XV Issue XV

Notes from the Principals~



Dear Parents,

As you know we place a high priority on students completing their school assignments. For the past few years we have connected students' work completion directly to the Effort mark on the report card. From time to time, we like to share the information with you so you can have a sense of the context for your own child's progress. In order to receive an Effort mark of Good or better, no more than one assignment can be missing at the end of a term. We tell students that we expect all of our students to receive marks of Good or Excellent in both Behavior and Effort each term.

Teachers put a great deal of energy into reminding students and assisting them to complete missed assignments. Results from the first quarter show that most students are meeting this high standard for work completion.

Here are the percentage of students receiving each Effort mark for the first quarter:

EFFORT Grade	Excellent	Good	Fair	Marginal	Unsatisfactory	Total Excellent + Good
5	54%	41	3	<1	<1	95%
6	52%	41	6	0	0	93%
7	43%	41	11	<1	<1	84%
8	39%	44	13	<1	<1	83%

Behavior Grade	Excellent	Good	Fair	Marginal	Unsatisfactory	Total Excellent + Good
5	54%	42	3	<1	<1	96%
6	65%	32	3	0	0	97%
7	49%	44	6	<1	0	93%
8	51%	41	7	<1	<1	92%



Please see Letter continued on page 2.....



Mark Your Calendar

December

- Dec. 17-Concert Choir caroling at Eastbrook Mall- 1 -1:30 p.m.
- Dec. 21-Winter Orchestra Concert 6:30 p.m.& Choral Concert— 7:45 p.m.
- Dec. 22- Orchestra/Choral Assembly 1:00 p.m.
- Dec. 26-30 Winter Break, No School



January

- Jan. 2—No School, New Year's Holiday
- Jan. 11- K-12 String Fling
- Jan. 16- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, No School
- Jan 19- Invention Convention-3 p.m.
- Jan. 20- Second Marking Period Ends
- Jan. 22- MMSA Papa Gino's Fund-raiser Event! Noon-5 p.m. Dine-In or Take-Out!



- Jan. 25-Group Photo Day
- Jan. 26-Report Cards Issued

February

- Feb. 4 -Math Counts Competition
- Feb. 8- Next MMSA Meeting- 7 p.m., in Rm. 99
- Feb. 20-21 - Presidents Day Vacation
- Feb. 22-24 — Regular School Days (vacation canceled due to Irene)
- Feb. 29- It's a Leap Year!



To recognize students with exemplary Effort and Behavior marks, we send a Commendation letter to each student who earns ten or more Effort and Behavior marks of Excellent or Good. Following the first marking period, we were proud to send Commendation letters to 238 of our 577 students – 41% of the students at MMS. Here is the breakdown by grade:

Grade 5	63 letters
Grade 6	75 letters
Grade 7	53 letters
Grade 8	47 letters

To earn a single mark of Excellent means that a student has made a strong, positive impression in a class. To have so many students receiving ten or more marks of Excellent means that the year is off to a great start in our classrooms.

The attached progress report shows your child's efforts to date in the second marking period. The information above may be helpful to you in putting the information on the progress report into context. Please contact your child's teacher(s) or school counselor if you have a concern about progress in a particular class, or overall.

Our counselors are Mrs. Eileen Melody, melodyem@mansfieldct.org, for last names A-K, and Mrs. Kristina Lee, leekm@mansfieldct.org, for last names L-Z.

Thank you for all of the ways that you support your child's success at school. Best wishes for the New Year ahead!

Sincerely,

Jeff Cryan
Principal
cryanj@mansfieldct.org

Candace Morell
Assistant Principal
morellcv@mansfieldct.org



NEWS From MMS

During the month of November, we traditionally give thanks for the bounty of a good harvest. At MMS, we have much to give thanks for as well – supportive families, caring professionals, and a spirit and drive towards authentic learning. The School Counseling Department coordinated an effort to learn what MMS community members were thankful for. Each member was encouraged to share their thoughts of thanks on colorful leaves and these leaves were attached to a hallway bulletin board for all to appreciate."

See more news on following pages.....



MMS Career Day – Wednesday, November 23

Career Day is one way the MMS School Counseling Department, in conjunction with faculty and parent volunteers, provides students with opportunities to think about their career choices.

MMS Career Day lets all 7th and 8th grade students interact with three professionals from a variety of careers including engineering, physical therapy, writing, teaching, and management, to name a few.

Speakers explored with students topics such as:

- recognizing personal interests, aptitudes, and abilities,
- understanding the meaning of work and career possibilities available currently and in the future,
- preparing oneself through the acquisition of certain skills and course work, and
- discussing the importance of successfully living and working in a culturally diverse world.





20 Windham MS students along with 14 Grade 5 students worked side-by-side exploring and identifying the various species of vertebrate and invertebrate animals it contains. This is part of a Learning Lands grant through EastConn. This project takes place at the MMS vernal pool, and it will continue throughout the current school year. Students did the low ropes challenge together earlier in the fall.

